



*from* the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **SC celebrities share their favorite teacher stories to recognize SC teachers' role in "Moving SC To The Top"**

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Click on the "Teachers: Moving SC To The Top" link on [www.sceoc.org](http://www.sceoc.org) to access a copy of Teachers Are Our Heroes quotes from SC celebrities.*

COLUMBIA – It may have been the extra words of encouragement, the never-ending smile, or their dedication to educational excellence. It won't take long for most people – especially successful ones - to remember fondly their favorite teachers and how they made an impact in their lives.

To recognize teacher's role in developing students and the state, successful South Carolinians are sharing their favorite stories about their favorite teachers in the "Teachers Are Our Heroes" project by the SC Education Oversight Committee. Copies of stories were distributed to committee members at Thursday's EOC meeting and were released in conjunction with National Education Week.

The project includes quotes from South Carolina celebrities ranging from Gov. Mark Sanford, to Wheel of Fortune game show co-host Vanna White and astronaut Charles Duke, Jr., to .SC historian Walter Edgar.

The project expands the EOC's "Teachers: Moving SC To The Top" campaign to show support for and recognize teacher efforts to achieve the 2010 education goal of ranking in the top half of states nationally.

The campaign is accessible through the EOC Website (at [www.sceoc.org](http://www.sceoc.org)) by clicking on the Teachers: Moving SC To The Top link and consists of:

- artwork for five specially-designed posters;
- tips sheets on 10 Ways to Recognize Teachers for parents, students and business;
- blueprint for students to organize a teacher recognition program; and,
- sample letters of appreciation to teachers for students, parents, and business.

"Teachers: Moving SC To The Top" recognizes the tremendous work of South Carolina teachers to improve achievement for all students" said EOC Public Awareness Committee Chairman Alex Martin.

The stories remind all of us that teachers are heroes for every student in their classroom now and in the past.”

Martin said South Carolinians who were invited but did not submit their stories are still encouraged to do so, as they will be added with the others.

“We hope the number of stories will continue to grow as a testament to the influence teachers have in the lives of students,” he said.

The EOC teacher recognition campaign addresses the issues raised in the statewide teacher survey (released in February 2003). The findings clustered around the following three themes (a) a general feeling that student achievement is improving and should continue to do so; (b) teacher support for accountability; and (c) consensus that through the combined efforts of the state, educators and the general public, SC can improve its position relative to other states.